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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 1 March 1952, Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) 1772 in Zittau, which had an authorized strength of about 8,000, numbered about 300 officers and 900 police. (1)

2. The VPD was organized into the headquarters, the 1st through 4th Regiments (Kommandos), the 1st Sonderabteilung (Rcn) and the 7th Lehrabteilung (Armd) (tank instruction unit, which previously was designated 7th Sonderabteilung).

3. The following personnel of the VPD were known [] by last names and position only unless noted:

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VP Inspekteur Vogt

Commanding officer.

unknown

Adjutant.

VP Kommandeur Nebrig

Deputy commanding officer and PK chief.

VP Oberrat Hans Knoblauch

Head of the party control commission.

VP Rat Dufke

Chief instructor and SED secretary

VP Kommissar Venko

Instructor.

VP Rat Muerbo

First propaganda officer.

VP Oberkommissar Kannewurf

Second propaganda officer,
successor to VP Oberrat Thurmenn, who was dismissed by Order No 2.

VP Kommissar Haufe

Assistant in charge of youth matters. He superseded VP Oberkommissar Ludwig (fmu) who was transferred to an unknown place.

VP Oberrat Max Schmidt

Chief of staff. He superseded VP Rat Jarmbrunn (fmu) who attended an instruction course for regimental commanders at the MP school in Kochstedt.

VP Oberkommissar Heinz Otto

First assistant and deputy of the chief of staff.
Second assistant for reconnaissance training.

VP Kommissar Knobloch

Third assistant in charge of personnel affairs,
cadre section for officers and personnel

VP Rat Traber

section for NCOs and police.

VP Kommissar Senf

Assistants to the chief of the personnel section.

VP Unterkommissar Jeschke

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VP Kommissar Schubert	Fourth assistant, chief of the section for classified material
unknown	Fifth assistant, in charge of special controls, encoding of teletypes.
VP Oberrat Brull	Deputy chief of staff for general matters; this post superseded the previous assignment of director of training. VP Kommissar Salden (fmu) was transferred to Gera as commander of a sector on the western boundary of the Soviet Zone.
unknown	Assistant in charge of instruction methods.
VP Oberrat Jureck	Assistant in charge of physical training.
VP Kommissar Pichtian	Assistant in charge of supply.
VP Unterkommissar Abt	Chief of the clothing section.
VP Rat Gruellich	Chief of the ration supply section.
VP Oberrat Harzig	Chief of the finance section.
VP Hauptwachtmeister Engelmann	Chief of the fuel and lubrication section.
VP Oberkommissar Neidhardt	Billeting officer.
VP Oberrat Egert	Chief of ordnance materiel section.
unknown	Deputy chief for artillery training.
unknown	Deputy chief for tank training.
VP Oberkommissar Jablonki	VP Oberrat Gast (fmu) was transferred to an unknown place.
VP Unterkommissar Krueger	Deputy chief for technical equipment.
unknown	Chief of the medical section.
VP Unterkommissar Mueller	Officer in charge of engineer matters.
VP Kommandeur Harnisch	Officer in charge of signal communications matters.
VP Inspekteur Goronov	Chief of the transportation section.
VP Inspekteur Statutov	Bandmaster.
unknown	Gas officer.
unknown	Fire protection officer.
VP Rat Warmbrunn	Liaison officers to the Ministry of State Security. VP Oberkommissar Helmut Schmidt was transferred to an unknown place. (2)
VP Rat Woitschik	Sovietnik for PK matters.
VP Rat Howirk	Sovietnik for general affairs.
VP Rat Kretschmar	Sovietnik for artillery matters.
unknown	Sovietnik for tank training.
VP Rat Falk	CO of the 1st Regt (Kommando). At present he is on detached service for the duration of a training course.
VP Rat Uhlmann	CO of the 2d Regt.
	CO of the 3d Regt.
	CO of the 4th Regt.
	CO of the 1st Sonderabteilung (Rcn)
	This unit will probably be assigned to the division headquarters as reconnaissance element. (3)
	CO of the 7th Lehrabteilung. (3)
	Deputy commanding officer and PK chief of the 7th Lehrabteilung.

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4. The 3d Regt (Inf), the organizational set-up of which was the same as that of all infantry regiments (Kommandos), was organized into three battalions. Each battalion had: a 1st Battery (heavy mortars) with 3 or 4 122-mm mortars; a 2d Battery (AT) with 4 Soviet 76.2-mm guns; 1 machine gun company; 1 signal communications Zug; 1 engineer Zug; and medical personnel. Each battalion (Abteilung) consisted of 3 companies; 1 heavy machine gun Zug; 1 medium mortar Zug; and medical personnel. For combat missions, the battalion will be reinforced by 1 signal communications Zug and 1 engineer Zug. (4) Each company consisted of a commanding officer; a PK officer; an officer in charge of interior duties; and 3 Zuege with 3 squads to each Zug. For combat missions the company will be reinforced by a light mortar section equipped with 2 mortars and a heavy machine gun squad. (5) The fire power of a squad consisted of 5 carbines, 1 Soviet model S-43 gun, 1 Soviet light machine gun with box magazine, and 2 Soviet submachine guns with drum magazines. (6)

5. The following leading personnel of the 3d Regt were known by last name and position

VP Rat Nowirk	Commanding officer.
V* Rat Wendt	Deputy commanding officer and PK chief.
VP Kommissar Triller	Deputy commanding officer for general matters.
VP Kommissar Schindler	Deputy commanding officer and supply officer.
VP Kommissar Koenig	Quartermaster clothing officer.
VP Kommissar Kaesenodel	Mess officer.
unknown	Finance officer.
VP Unterkommissar Mueller	Fuel and lubrication officer.
VP Hauptwachtmeister Kalik	Armorer-artificer official.
VP Rat Guetiler	Chief of staff; at present attending a course in Kochstedt.
VP Unterkommissar Metznacher	First assistant in charge of planning.
VP Kommissar Hagon	Second assistant in charge of classified material.
VP Kommissar Rautenberg	Third assistant in charge of reconnaissance matters.
VP Kommissar Hermann	Fourth assistant in charge of personnel matters. He is assigned one deputy.
VP Rat Schumann	Deputy CO, in charge of artillery training.
VP Kommissar Bading	SED secretary.
VP Kommissar Fretzert	FDJ secretary.
unknown	First aid man.
VP Oberkommissar Huhn	CO of 1st Bn.
VP Oberkommissar Klante	CO of 2d Bn.
VP Kommissar Kopfelt	CO of 3d Bn.
VP Oberkommissar Meyer	Deputy CO and PK chief, 1st Bn.
VP Kommissar Bergmann	Deputy CO and PK chief, 2d Bn.
VP Kommissar Fischer	Deputy CO and PK chief, 3d Bn.
VP Kommissar Wagner	Chief adjutant (chief of staff), 1st Bn.
Deserter	Chief adjutant, 2d Bn.
unknown	Chief adjutant, 3d Bn.
VP Hauptwachtmeister Rietschelt	Interior duty officer, 1st Bn.
VP Meister Willrich	Interior duty officer, 2d Bn.
VP Hauptwachtmeister Holm	Interior duty officer, 3d Bn.
VP Kommissar Schneider	SED secretary, 1st Bn.
VP Unterkommissar Ohlfeld	SED secretary, 2d Bn.
unknown	SED secretary, 3d Bn.
unknown	FDJ secretary, 1st Bn.
VP Unterkommissar Irmischer	FDJ secretary, 2d Bn.
unknown	FDJ secretary, 3d Bn.

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6. An artillery regiment, previously 4th Komando, was organized into: the headquarters with commanding officer, deputy commanding officer and PK chief, deputy commanding officer and director of training, chief of staff, supply officer, SED secretary and FDJ secretary; the headquarters Zug; 3 Abteilungen with 3 batteries in addition to 1 headquarters Zug and 1 fire Zug to each Abteilung; 1 AA Abteilung; and 1 mortar battery equipped with Soviet 160-mm mortars. Each Abteilung of the artillery regiment consisted of 2 light and 1 heavy batteries with 4 guns to each battery. (7)
7. Arms available at the VPD in March 1952 included: Soviet training tanks, Soviet armored personnel carriers equipped with 20-mm guns, Soviet four-axle armored reconnaissance cars, Soviet 122-mm SP guns, Soviet 76.2-mm AT guns, German 105-mm light field howitzers, German model 18 heavy field howitzers, Soviet 122-mm heavy mortars, Soviet 81.2-mm mortars, German 80-mm mortars, Soviet 50-mm light mortars, Soviet Maxim heavy machine guns, German model 08/15 heavy machine guns, Soviet submachine guns with drum magazines, German models 43 and 44 submachine guns, Soviet models K-38 and G-41 carbines, German models 98-K and 8-43 carbines, 7.65-mm Mauser pistols and Belgian model FN 9-mm pistols. (1) Two ZIS trucks converted into ordnance shops were available for maintenance and repair work on arms. The authorized arms equipment required for the VPDs were allegedly being stored in Soviet installations.
8. The following officers attached to division headquarters had to attend a three-day training course at the IVA every month: commanding officer, deputy commanding officer and PK chief, deputy commanding officer for general matters, deputy commanding officer in charge of artillery training, deputy commanding officer in charge of tank training, chief of staff and supply officer. The training schedule within the unit was as follows:
- First training group. The group included regimental commanders, PK officers, deputy commanding officers for general matters and chiefs of staff. The training program included: PK instruction held in the form of study groups; infantry, artillery and tank tactics with special stress on combined-arms tactics; basic training; map reading; ordnance matters; gas protection; motor transport training and physical training.
- Second training group. The group included battalion commanders, PK officers and chief adjutants. The training program followed the same pattern as that of the first training group, however on battalion level.
- Third training group. The group included company commanders and PK officers. The training program included the same subjects as the schedule of the first and second training groups, however at company level and omitting artillery and tank tactics.
- Fourth training group. The group included administrative officers. The training program included PK instruction in the form of study groups, infantry tactics, basic training, ordnance matters, map reading and administrative matters.
- Fifth training group. The group included platoon leaders. The training schedule was the same as that for company leaders, however, at platoon level. Twelve hours per week were devoted to this type of training in the first, second and fourth training group. Of this time, 45 percent were devoted to PK instruction; 35 percent to tactical problems; 3 percent each to basic training, map reading, principles and elements of instruction, gas protection and motor transport; and 5 percent to ordnance matters. The third and fifth training groups were trained daily for missions at company and platoon level in addition to the 12-hour training mentioned above. (3)

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Comments.

- (1) On 1 March 1952, the actual strength of the VPD in Zittau amounted to 15 percent of the authorized strength. An authorized strength of about 8,000 men, [redacted] roughly corresponds to the peace strength of a Soviet motorized rifle division. The actual strength of the VPD in Zittau shows that it was a cadre unit. Although the strength of the cadre unit is very small, the VPD in its organizational set-up and armament can be considered as a nucleus of a motorized rifle division according to the Soviet pattern. This applies for all the VPDs in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- (2) In unusually large number of officers, a total of about 40, is assigned to the headquarters of the VPD in Zittau. This corresponds to the officer strength of a division headquarters. From the designations of regiment and battalion, it must be inferred that, contrary to previous assumption, the former Kommandos and Abteilungen have now become the cadres of regiments and battalions respectively.
- (3) Of the previous 1st through 7th Sonderabteilungen, only the 1st and 7th Sonderabteilung are still existent. It is believed that they are directly assigned to the VPD. The two Sonderabteilungen may also have been merged into one mixed Abteilung. [redacted]
- (4) It appears that the signal communications Zug and the engineer Zug have not been integrated as organic elements of the battalion (Abteilung) to date. They are probably detached by the regiment (Kommando) in case of need for combined arms training.
- (5) It is believed that the light mortar section and the heavy machine gun section are only temporarily assigned to the rifle companies as supporting elements within the framework of combined arms training. The light mortar section is equipped with 50-mm mortars.
- (6) The rifle company now has an authorized equipment of nine light machine guns. Prior to the reorganization only six light machine guns were available.
- (7) The reported organization of the 4th Regt (artillery Kommando) supports the assumption that the former 5th and 6th Sonderabteilungen have been subordinated to the artillery Kommando. The intended equipment of the heavy mortar battery with 160-mm mortars is a novel feature. Such heavy mortars have not been available to Volkspolizei units to date. The organization of the artillery Abteilung into 2 light and 1 heavy batteries is unusual. As a rule, artillery Abteilungen are composed of batteries of the same type.
- (8) The report is the first to furnish comprehensive information on the re-organization of the VPDs. [redacted]

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[redacted] It is possible that the VPDs have been converted into cadre divisions of very limited strength. From all available indications relative to the strength, organization and armament of these cadre units, it is inferred that the planned divisions are to be organized up to the pattern of a Soviet motorized rifle division. The organization existing at present is probably only a temporary solution which has been influenced by the progress of training proceeding from company to battalion and regimental level and perhaps also by organizational and personnel considerations. It will require a great amount of time to bring the existing cadres to their authorized peace strength. The divisions to be formed from the 24 VPDs would total about 200,000 men. It will hardly be possible to reach this strength in the course of 1952 even by falling back upon the personnel assigned to schools and by extensive recruiting. It will be possible to reach a personnel strength of 200,000 men only by introducing compulsory military service. The equipment of this force with weapons and material will be a question of relatively minor concern. The solution of this problem will solely depend on the intentions of the Soviets. The changes in organizational set-up of the paramilitary Volkspolizei which started 10 January 1952 does not at present imply an increase of its fighting strength.

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